(b) Does not arise.

(c) The requirements of items mentioned in part (a) depend upon transport *needs* and very from year *to* year. However, orders placed on the industry tor Railway equipment, viz. Wagons and locomotives in 1994-95, are -undated- below:

Item	No ordered in 1994-95	Capacity
Wagons in terms of four-wheelers. . . .	10.800	35635 (Licensed)
Electric Locmotives with BHEL	20	20

Approval to Pepsico for setting up of a holing company

*351. SHRI N. G1RI PRASAD: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had granted approval to Pepsico Inc. for setting up cf a 700 per cent holding company in India; and

(b) if so, the details of the terms and conditions thereof, particularly regarding funding and investments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. M/s. Pepsi Co. Inc., USA have been granted approval to set up a 100 per cent holding company Jn India with investment of US S 95.00 Million. This . be invested in Indian subsidiary company, joint ventures or business activities. Inter-alia, these include promotion of new export projects/joint ventures as also investment in food processing industries, establishment of backward linkages with farmers, manufacturing/ marketingldistribution of beverages, technology upgradation etc

Funds for the rehabilitation of beedi workers

*352. SHRI S. AUSTIN: Will tie PRIME MINISTER be pleased *to* state:

(a) whether Government propose to earmark funds for the rehabilitation of beedi workers coming under the impact of severe anti beedi legislation;

(b) what funds the Minisry have earmarked for 1995-96; and

(c) whether any funds have already been spent?

THE MINISTER OF STATE THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C. SILVERA): (a) to (c) The proposed Anti-Tobacco Legislation may not significantly effect employment situation in the Beedi-Industry.

Instructions issued' for speedy disposal of pension cases

*353. SHRI RAGHAVJI) Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to answer to Starred Question 234 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 22nd December, 1994 and state:

(a) what are the details of various instructions issued by Government for speedy disposal of pension cases of retiring persons; and

(,b) what measures are adopted by Government to ensure the implementation of the same and to punish the erring Departments/offices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI-MATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) and (b) The system of sanction and payment of pension operates on a decentralised basis. The concerned Ministries and Departments from where a Government servant retires are responsible for ensuring such payments without delay. Some of the important steps taken by the Go-

Gernment to ensure timely disposal of pension cases of retiring persons are as under:—

(i) specific time schedule has been laid down in the Central Civil Services (Pension) Rules, 1972 and the corresponding rules applicable to All India Services Officers, Armed Forces personnel and Railway employees for advance action to be taken by the Head of Office and Audit/Accounts Officers to ensure timely assessment of retirement benefits and issue of Pension Payment Order not later than one month in advance of the date of retirement.

(ii) Making Heads of Departments/! Offices accountable for compliance with line Government orders for authorising pension, provisional or final, by the date of retirement.

(iii) Identification of officers of the rank of loint Secretary in the Ministries to monitor disposal of pensionary grievances.

(iv) The retiring employees who do not receive pensionary benefits on the date of retirement may bring such cases to the notice of the Government.

2. Instructions for timely payment of pensionary benefits were reiterated by the Government recently emphasising upon the timely verification of qualifying service, appropriate training of employees handling pension cases, publicity regarding provision of CCS (Pension) Rules and periodical coordination meeting between administrative Heads and Accounts Offices. The Heads of Departments/ Offices are responsible for ensuring timely payment and the respective Departments can take appropriate action against the delinquent officials responsible for delay in payments.

Arms build-np by China

*354. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH:
-SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a report published in the Pioneer of 4th April, 1995 under the caption "Concern over arms build-up by China";

(b) if so, what are the facts in respect of various issues referred to in the above report;

(c) to what extent the modernisation by China of its armed forces and equipping them with sophisticated aircraft, air defence weapons its ongoing nuclear weapons' programme and building of strategic road links from border towns to rail heads and sea ports of Myanmar, are likely to affect and Pose a threat to the security of the country;

(d) what steps Government have so rar taken to meet the situation and to safeguard the interests of the country? and

(e) how far the joint meetings between the representatives of India and China have proved useful in strengthening the relations between the two countries and what are the details of various issues discussed during these meetings and the results thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARIUN): (a) to (e) The news item is based on certain observations in the Annual Report, 1994-95 of Ministry of Defence. Modernization of the Chinese Armed Forces is one of four modernizations being undertaken in that country. Government keeps a constant watch on such developments and takes adequate steps to safeguard the security of the country. It will not be in public interest of disclose details.

An agreement on the Maintenance of peace and Tranquillity along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in the India-China border areas, was signed in September '93. The details regarding the imolementation of the Asreement will he worked out in the India-China Joint Working Group (JWG) which has been in existence since prior to the Agreement, An India-China Export Group has been set no to assist the JWG in the implementation 'Of the Agreement. The Expert Group has met thrice.. In these